

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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SUBJECT: FOURTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE ON THE UNIDO CONSTITUTION, VIENNA, NOV. 2-15, 1976

REF: VIENNA 8852 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AN EC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP MET IN BRUSSELS
RECENTLY TO COORDINATE MEMBER STATE VIEWS FOR THE NOVEMBER
2-15 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE UNIDO
CONSTITUTION. THE EC GENERALLY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE
GROUP B (G-B) POSITION, BUT IT IS PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE
ON SEVERAL ISSUES IF MINOR CONCESSIONS WOULD HELP BRING THE
NEGOTIATIONS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. THE EC SEEKS US
SUPPORT FOR ITS PROPOSAL THAT THE COMMISSION BE ALLOWED
TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIDO AFFAIRS. OUR SOURCES BELIEVE A
FEW CONCESSIONS REGARDING THE SCOPE OF THE ASSESSED BUDGET
ARE NECESSARY IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO BE SUCCESSFULLY
CONCLUDED. END SUMMARY.

2. PER REQUEST IN REFTTEL, MISSION OFFICER DISCUSSED
WITH EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS RESULT OF EC PREPARATORY
MEETING FOR THE SUBJECT UNIDO MEETING. THESE OFFICIALS
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SAY THE EC GENERALLY AGREES TO THE GROUP B POSITION ON

THE PROPOSED UNIDO CONSTITUTION, BUT MEMBER STATES ARE WILLING TO BE FLEXIBLE ON SOME ISSUES, IF THIS WOULD OBTAIN SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO NEGOTIATIONS. THE EC MEETING FOCUSED ONLY ON MAIN OUTSTANDING ISSUES, I.E., THE PREAMBLE OF THE CONSTITUTION, MEMBERSHIP, ORGANIZATION, BUDGET AUTHORITY, AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS.

3. CONSTITUTIONAL PREAMBLE: THE EC IS PREPARED TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE THAN G-B POSITION IN MEETING G-77 PROPOSALS. THE NINE AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO LINK BETWEEN THE PREAMBLE AND THE CONSTITUTION, I.E., THE CONSTITUTION SHOULD CONTAIN NO REFERENCE TO THE PREAMBLE. THE EC IS ALSO PREPARED TO MAKE MINOR CONCESSIONS REGARDING THE DESCRIPTION OF UNIDO FUNCTIONS. IT, HOWEVER, DOES NOT EXPECT MAJOR PROBLEMS FROM THE G-77 ON THIS ITEM.

4. MEMBERSHIP: THE EC TABLED A PROPOSAL AT THE LAST MEETING (WORKING PAPER B, JULY 2) SUGGESTING THAT ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING A GROUP OF COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIDO AFFAIRS, BUT NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE. THIS PROPOSAL AIMS AT EC COMMISSION PARTICIPATION. COMMISSION OFFICIALS ASK THAT THE US SUPPORT IT.

5. UNIDO ORGANS: THE EC CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE G-B POSITION REGARDING THE ORGANIZATION AND MEETING SCHEDULE OF THE CONFERENCE. IT IS ALSO PREPARED TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD FROM 45 TO 50; THESE FIVE SEATS WOULD GO TO LDCS. THE EC ALSO SUPPORTS THE G-B POSITION REGARDING THE BOARD'S POWERS. THE EC BELIEVES G-B HAS ALREADY OBTAINED SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS FROM THE G-77 REGARDING THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET COMMITTEE (PBC) AND IS NOW PREPARED TO MAKE A FEW MINOR CONCESSIONS TO WIN FINAL G-77 AGREEMENT ON THIS PROPOSAL. FOR EXAMPLE, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, THE EC, IF NECESSARY, MIGHT AGREE TO CALLING THE PBC A SUBSIDIARY BODY AS LONG AS ITS POWERS WERE NOT CHANGED. MIGHT ALSO AGREE TO EIGHT G-B MEMBERS ON THE PBC IN PART BECAUSE THE G-B COULD EXPECT SUPPORT ON FINANCIAL MATTERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FROM G-D MEMBERS.

6. PROGRAMS AND FINANCE: THE EC BELIEVES AGREEMENT IS NOW POSSIBLE ON THESE ALL IMPORTANT ISSUES; IT HOPES THE US AND JAPAN WILL AGREE TO INCLUDING PERSONNEL EXPENDITURES AS PART OF THE ASSESSED BUDGET. COMMISSION OFFICIALS BELIEVE THIS IS THE MINIMAL ACCEPTABLE POSITION IF THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED AT THE

FORTHCOMING MEETING. THE EC CURRENTLY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE G-B POSITION THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COSTS SHOULD NOT BE PART OF THE ASSESSED BUDGET. HOWEVER, COMMISSION OFFICIALS PREDICT SEVERAL MEMBER STATES WILL GIVE WAY ON THIS POINT IF A DEADLOCK DEVELOPS ON THIS ISSUE. THE EC ALSO CONTINUES TO OPPOSE ALLOWING THE CONFERENCE TO MAKE LAST MINUTE CHANGES TO PROPOSED PROGRAMS AND THE BUDGET, BUT AGAIN SOME MEMBER STATES COULD BE FLEXIBLE ON THIS ISSUE, IF THIS BECOMES A MAJOR POINT OF DISPUTE.

7. EC PROCEDURES: THE EC GENERALLY PLANS TO HAVE ONE SPOKESMAN BUT MEMBER STATES WILL CONTINUE TO BE FREE TO STATE THEIR VIEWS. SEVERAL MEMBER STATES WANT NO RESTRICTIONS ON PARTICIPATION IN THE NEGOTIATING GROUP. EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL DANIEL GUGGENBUHL WILL BE REPRESENTING THE COMMISSION AT THE NOV. 2-15 MEETING; HE IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE ABOVE POINTS IN GREATER DETAIL WITH US DELEGATION IN VIENNA. HINTON

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